

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 3, 4 and 8, leaves claims 9 and 10 unchanged and cancels claims 1, 2 and 5-7. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 3, 4 and 8-10.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that claims 9 and 10 are allowed.

Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 4 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Amendments were made to claims 3, 4 and 8 to place them in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 3, 4 and 8 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mikkonen (U.S. Patent No. 6,587,457) and Backstrom (U.S. Patent No. 5,229,996); claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mikkonen and Backstrom and further in view of Maxemchuk (U.S. Patent No. 6,411,810); and claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mikkonen and Backstrom and further in view of Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,510,145). As indicated above, claims 1, 2 and 5-7 were canceled. Therefore, these rejections with respect to claims 1, 2 and 5-7 are rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 1, 2 and 5-7 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that

the features recited in claims 1, 2 and 5-7 are taught or suggested by any of the references of record. The cancellation of claims 1, 2 and 5-7 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants hereby reserve their right to pursue the invention as set forth in claims 1, 2 and 5-7 in a continuing application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 3, 4 and 8-10 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 3, 4 and 8-10 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (520.40489X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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